

# NOTIFICATION AUX PARTIES

N° 2025/009

Genève, le 23 janvier 2025

CONCERNE :

CHINE

Appel à candidatures pour la 4<sup>e</sup> et la 5<sup>e</sup> sessions du Programme d'échange de talents à l'intention des autorités scientifiques de la CITES (TESA)

1. La présente notification est publiée à la demande de la Chine.
2. Avec la [notification aux Parties N° 2023/047](#), la Chine a lancé le Programme d'échange de talents à l'intention des autorités scientifiques de la CITES (TESA) en commémoration du 40<sup>e</sup> anniversaire du Comité scientifique des espèces en danger (ESSC) de la République populaire de Chine. Le programme est financé et accueilli par l'Académie des sciences de Chine (Chinese Academy of Sciences) et organisé par l'ESSC. L'objectif principal de cette initiative est de renforcer les capacités des autorités scientifiques en ligne avec la Convention et la résolution Conf. 10.3.
3. En 2024, trois sessions du programme TESA ont été menées avec succès, mobilisant des participants de différentes Parties pour exécuter des programmes de recherche et d'échange en Chine. Ces programmes ont donné lieu à quatre rapports de recherche, axés sur la conservation et la gestion des espèces menacées (voir l'annexe 1). Ces rapports ont été examinés par des experts et contribuent à l'avancement scientifique de la Convention.
4. Les sessions de 2024 ont renforcé la capacité de coopération internationale de l'ESSC, approfondi ses relations avec le Secrétariat CITES et d'autres partenaires internationaux, contribué à une coopération et à des échanges approfondis entre les participants au TESA et divers centres de recherche à l'intérieur et à l'extérieur de l'Académie des sciences de Chine, et aidé les participants à mieux comprendre les tendances et les outils dans le cadre de leurs recherches. Le sommet 2024 du Forum sur la coopération sino-africaine (FOCAC) a vu l'approfondissement des liens relationnels et opérationnels entre la Chine et l'Afrique, et a mis en avant l'importance de la conservation de la biodiversité et du développement vert.
5. Le programme TESA lance maintenant son appel à candidatures pour les 4<sup>e</sup> et 5<sup>e</sup> sessions, qui auront lieu en Chine en 2025. Chaque session de recherche invite deux chercheurs à entreprendre des projets de recherche coopératifs pour une durée de trois mois en Chine. Les critères de financement/parrainage sont définis par la Bourse internationale du président de l'Académie des sciences de Chine pour les scientifiques invités, dans le cadre du programme TESA. La bourse prévoit un voyage international aller-retour en classe économique, une assurance maladie et une allocation mensuelle de 20 000 à 30 000 RMB (2 857 à 4 286 USD) par mois pour couvrir les frais de subsistance à Pékin, en Chine.

6. En 2025, le programme donnera la priorité aux talents des Parties situées le long de l'initiative « Belt and Road » (nouvelle route de la soie), en particulier des pays asiatiques et des États membres de l'Organisation de coopération de Shanghai (OCS). La sélection se concentrera sur les autorités scientifiques de ces régions et veillera à l'équilibre entre les genres. De plus amples détails sur les conditions et les domaines de recherche prioritaires du programme TESA sont disponibles à l'**Annexe 1** de la notification aux Parties n° 2023/047.

**Calendrier de travail prévisionnel pour 2025**

TÂCHE	DESCRIPTION	CONFIÉE À	DURÉE
(1) <b>CANDIDATURE</b>	Soumission des dossiers de candidature avec les projets de recherche préliminaires ainsi que des calendriers proposés pour les échanges en Chine.	Candidats	Fév-mar
	Examen des candidatures et sélection des candidats au travers d'entretiens en ligne	ESSC	Avr.
(2) <b>PLANIFICATION DES DÉPLACEMENTS</b>	Obtention de l'approbation de l'Académie des sciences de Chine, lancement des démarches à effectuer pour se rendre en Chine et organisation de l'itinéraire.	Participants et ESSC	Mai et juin
(3) <b>ÉCHANGES ET RECHERCHES</b>	<b>QUATRIÈME SESSION DE RECHERCHES DU PROGRAMME TESA</b>		
	Arrivée et organisation logistique	Participants et ESSC	1 <sup>re</sup> semaine de juin
	Consultation de lancement et présentation d'un rapport d'ouverture	Participants	2 <sup>e</sup> et 3 <sup>e</sup> semaine de juin
	Échange de coopération et recherche documentaire	Participants et ESSC	Juin-août
	Finalisation du rapport de recherche et soutenance de la présentation finale	Participants	Fin août
	<b>CINQUIÈME SESSION DE RECHERCHES DU PROGRAMME TESA</b>		
	Arrivée et organisation logistique	Participants et ESSC	1 <sup>re</sup> semaine de juillet
	Consultation de lancement et présentation d'un rapport d'ouverture	Participants	2 <sup>e</sup> et 3 <sup>e</sup> semaine de juillet
	Échange de coopération et recherche documentaire	Participants et ESSC	Juil. -sept
	Finalisation du rapport de recherche et soutenance de la présentation finale	Participants	Fin sept.
(4) <b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	Synthèse des résultats et de l'expérience tirés de la mise en œuvre des quatrième et cinquième sessions, l'une après l'autre	ESSC	Oct et nov
	Compte rendu des progrès accomplis et demande de financement pour la phase suivante.	ESSC	Fin 2025

7. Les Parties et les parties prenantes concernées sont encouragées à désigner des candidats pour la première phase du programme TESA, en remplissant le formulaire figurant à l'**Annexe 2** de la présente notification, qui devra être soumis avant le 1er avril 2025 à [ccites@ioz.ac.cn](mailto:ccites@ioz.ac.cn), avec M. Shizhe Li (il/lui) [rockylee0721@gmail.com](mailto:rockylee0721@gmail.com) en copie.

# TESA - 2024

Progress of Talent Exchange Programme for CITES Scientific Authorities  
Endangered Species Scientific Commission, PRC  
Chinese Academy of Sciences

As per Notification to the Parties No. 2023/047, China launched the Talent Exchange Programme for CITES Scientific Authorities (TESA) to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the Endangered Species Scientific Commission, People's Republic of China (ESSC). The programme is financed and hosted by the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and organized by the ESSC, aiming to enhance the capacity of Scientific Authorities in line with the Convention.

The primary objective of TESA is to build and enhance the capacity of CITES Scientific Authorities to promote technical cooperation as called for in the text of the Convention, Resolution Conf. 10.3 on *Designation and Role of the Scientific Authorities*, and Resolution Conf. 19.2 on *Capacity-building*. The programme aims to support face-to-face exchanges between personnel from specific scientific bodies, joint scientific research, and the preparation of scientific reports and documents. TESA also contributes to the establishment of scientific partnerships for wildlife conservation.

Following Notification No. 2023/047, the ESSC received 15 applications from 11 Parties across Africa, Asia, and Central and South America and the Caribbean. The research objectives cover African pangolins, elephants, cranes and turtles, Asian crocodiles, sharks and rays, and plants, with a focus on species conservation, community participation, and policy development. In November 2023, ESSC experts evaluated the applicants and selected the following individuals:

Country	Name	Period
<b>Session I</b>		
Zimbabwe	Nobesuthu Adelaide Ngwenya	February-May
Kenya	Jacob Mueti Ngwava	February-May
<b>Session II</b>		
Togo	Delagnon Assou	April-July
Nigeria	Ajogwu Felix Ejeh	Cancelled for personal reasons
Lesotho	Lerato Seleteng-Kose	Cancelled for personal reasons
<b>Session III</b>		
United Republic of Tanzania	Bigeyo Neke Kuboja	September-November
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Asghar Mobaraki	Cancelled for personal reasons

In 2024, TESA successfully conducted three sessions, engaging fellows from several African countries in research and exchange programs in China. Four TESA fellows undertook a comprehensive process that included project design, preliminary research, kick-off consultations, collaborative exchanges and report reviews. They successfully completed their studies, focused on key areas such as species assessments, identification materials, wildlife trade monitoring, and the impacts of wildlife on local communities, with their topics, methodologies, and results fully acknowledged. Despite the preliminary nature of these studies due to time constraints and other factors, they demonstrate significant potential for further in-depth research to yield important outcomes. The Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) provided financial support for the four TESA fellows during their three-month stay in China.





# NOBESUTHU ADELAIDE NGWENYA

TESA Session I  
(20 February- May 18, 2024)

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Ms. Nobesuthu Adelaide Ngwenya

The Ecologist and National Elephant Coordinator for the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority

## **The status of Human-Elephant Interactions in the KAZA TFCA component of Zimbabwe**

Focusing on the Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA TFCA), Zimbabwe component, the study showed that Human-Wildlife Conflicts (HWC) which are generally increasing in the landscape and responses to wildlife conflicts by Authorities are limited by resource availability. Consequently, the tolerance of elephants by local communities was low, with people living in constant fear. Moreover, without compensation for losses, the communities felt that wildlife was more valued than humans. Global Conservation Frameworks such as CITES should aim at understanding and addressing the root causes of conservation problems, particularly focusing on the human dimension of conservation which has a great contribution to determining the success of the same conservation framework.



- Photo: visiting the Chinese Academy of Forestry to learn and practice stumpage quality testing technology.

Nobe said:

*"The TESA programme has been a great opportunity to collaborate, develop networks and learn from China and other TESA Fellows from different countries. It is an amazing platform and I believe we can go far with this type of collaboration..."*



# JACOB MUETI NGWAVA

TESA Session I  
(20 February- May 18, 2024)

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Dr. Jacob Mueti Ngwava

Researcher of the National Museums of Kenya

## Identification Manual for Kenyan CITES Appendix I Turtle Species

The development of an identification manual for Kenya's traded species is necessary since currently there is none available that focuses on CITES listed species, making the species identification task for CITES authorities and enforcement officials difficult. In the first phase, the document presents a detailed manual for identification of six species of turtles. Identification of turtles is based on observable morphological characteristics and review of existing literature/past studies on the species. Comparison was also made with information available in the older CITES ID manual to identify if there were information gaps. This manual will assist the management authorities, custom checks, and general readership with an easy-to-use guide to identify Kenyan species that are the most endangered and threatened by international trade.



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- Photo: visiting the National Zoological Museum of China.

Jacob said:

*"Besides the invaluable knowledge acquired during the scientific exchange program, I am grateful for the great support that enabled us to develop ID manuals for all Kenya's CITES Appendix I turtle species. In addition, during the exchange program, we were able to publish two research articles on ecological aspects of the critically endangered pancake tortoise in Kenya. My special thanks go to the organizers of the TESA for their enormous support to me and all the other TESA fellows making our participation a success. Thank you...."*



# DELAGNON ASSOU

TESA Session II  
(April 15 - July 13, 2024)

patricedelagnon@gmail.com



- Photo: visiting the Xylotheque at the Chinese Academy of Forestry.

Mr. Delagnon Assou  
PhD student at the Laboratory of Ecology & Ecotoxicology (LaEE), University of Lomé, Togo;  
member of the IUCN-SSC Pangolin Specialist Group and the Monitor Lizard Specialist Group

## **Wild Meat Trade in Lomé, the Capital City of Togo, with Focus on Species Listed in the CITES Appendices Using Publicly Available Social Media Data**

The study examines 80 TikTok videos from Lomé, Togo, showcasing wild meat sales between November 2022 and April 2024. The videos featured various smoked wild animals, totaling approximately 3,526 individuals across 27 inferred species, predominantly mammals, birds, and reptiles. Prices for whole smoked animals varied significantly, depending on the species and the size of the individual animal. The results revealed significant conservation implications for the long-term survival and sustainable management of these species. The demand for wild meat in Lomé is driven by the growing population, cultural and economic benefits, as well as a lack of awareness. The study highlights the urgent need for targeted education, stronger enforcement of wildlife protection laws, and better communication about the legal status and conservation importance of the species. Based on the findings, the development of a national red list for wildlife and plant species in the country is recommended. Additionally, the study advocates for the adoption and dissemination of the CITES implementation framework within the country.

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Assou said:

*"I believe that international collaborations between Parties play a crucial role in fostering knowledge exchange, sharing best practices, and developing joint initiatives to address the challenges of sustainable wildlife management. These partnerships are especially important in addressing issues related to wildlife trade and consumption, enabling information sharing and coordinated actions to combat illegal practices and promote sustainability."*



# BIGEYO NEKE KUBOJA

TESA Session III

(September 1, - November 29,  
2024)

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- Photo: group discussing with the ESSC.

Ms. Bigeyo Neke Kuboja

Researcher at the Tanzania Fisheries Research Institute

## **Shark and Ray Trade and Its Sustainability in the Western Indian Ocean: Challenges and Conservation Strategies**

This study examines the dynamics of shark and ray trade in the WIO region, focusing on the fisheries and trade practices of Tanzania, Mozambique and Kenya. Chondrichthyan species, including sharks, rays, and guitarfishes, face severe conservation challenges due to overfishing, high market demand for their fins and meat, and habitat degradation. The WIO, a hotspot for biodiversity, is home to many threatened species, yet illegal trade and unsustainable fisheries practices continue to thrive. This report analyzes fishery and trade data from 2000 to 2022, exploring trends in landings, exports, and the gaps in data and knowledge that hinder effective management. The findings highlight significant discrepancies in trade reporting, the critical role of artisanal fisheries, and the urgent need for improved monitoring and enforcement. Despite existing regulations, including CITES listings, illegal trade routes persist, exacerbating overfishing pressures. The report recommends enhancing regulatory frameworks, implementing species-specific management measures, and strengthening regional cooperation to ensure sustainable management of chondrichthyan species. Moreover, investment in genetic monitoring and habitat conservation, such as coral reef protection, is crucial for the long-term survival of these species. Through this analysis, the study aims to contribute to developing more effective conservation strategies and sustainable trade practices in the WIO region.

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Bigeyo said:

*"The TESA programme represents a unique and invaluable initiative for building the capacity of CITES Scientific Authorities. Emphasizing international collaboration, promoting scientific research, and enhancing technical skills, it aligns seamlessly with the goals of sustainable resource management and biodiversity conservation. My involvement in the programme, particularly through research on Chondrichthyan fisheries in the Western Indian Ocean, has had a meaningful impact on advancing CITES objectives."*